

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending after entry of this paper. Claims 10-26 have been allowed. Claims 1-9 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended for clarification. Support may be found throughout the instant specification and claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include a distinction between the detectably-labeled biomolecule probe and the detectable antibody. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the instant specification and claims, for example, paragraphs 33, 34, and 147 and Figures 4D and 5D. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Brusca for allowing us an interview after Final Rejection and for the courtesies extended in the telephonic interview on November 2, 2006. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss pending and proposed claims in view of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for lack of clarity as to whether the antibody binds to the first or the second of the two RNA:DNA hybrids, or to both. For the sole purpose of advancing the instant application, applicants have amended the claims in order to address the Examiner's concerns. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejection to claims 1-9 are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Coutlee, et al.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to Claims 10-12 as being unpatentable over Coutlee, et al.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 2629-4036.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 2629-4036.

Respectfully submitted,
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